

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of Sierra Pacific Power Company (U903) for an Order Approving its 2004 Low Income Energy Efficiency Plan and Budget.	Application 03-07-002 (Filed July 1, 2003)
In the Matter of the Application of Southern California Water Company (U 133 E) Regarding Low Income Assistance Programs for its Bear Valley Electric Service Customers for Program Year 2004.	Application 03-07-003 (Filed July 1, 2003)
In the Matter of the Application of PACIFICORP for Approval of Post-2002 Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program Funding.	Application 03-07-014 (Filed July 3, 2003)
In the Matter of the Application of Southwest Gas Corporation for Approval of Program Year 2004 Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program Budgets. (U 905 G)	Application 03-07-017 (Filed July 1, 2003)
In the Matter of the Amended Application of Avista Corporation dba Avista Utilities for Approval of Program Year 2004 Low Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) Program Budget.	Application 03-07-019 (Filed July 1, 2003)
Application of Alpine Natural Gas Company Operating Company No. 1 LLC in Compliance with Decision 03-03-007 (PY 2004 Low Income Energy Efficiency Plan).	Application 03-07-025 (Filed July 10, 2003)

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING CONSOLIDATING APPLICATIONS
FOR PY2004 LOW-INCOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS
OF THE SMALL AND MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL UTILITIES AND
ADDRESSING PROCEDURAL AND SCOPING MATTERS**

Per Decision (D.) 03-03-007, applications for approval of Low-Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) program plans for program year (PY) 2004 were filed by Sierra Pacific Power Company, Bear Valley Electric Service Company,¹ PacifiCorp, Southwest Gas Corporation, Alpine Natural Gas Company Operating Company No. 1 LLC, and Avista Utilities. These utilities, along with West Coast Gas Company (West Coast Gas), are referred to as the small and multi-jurisdictional utilities under Commission jurisdiction, or SMJUs.

Consolidation of Applications

By this ruling, Application (A.) 03-07-002, A.03-07-003, A.03-07-014, A.03-07-017, A.03-07-019, and A.03-07-025 are hereby consolidated. The service list in Rulemaking (R.) 01-08-027 will continue to serve as the service list in this consolidated proceeding, per Ordering Paragraph 21 of D.03-03-007.

Filing Requirements for West Coast Gas

In D.03-03-007, the Commission found that West Coast Gas' referral program for LIEE services was reasonable, given the current housing and appliance stock within its small service territory.² Based on that conclusion, West Coast Gas did not file an application to offer LIEE services directly to its customers for PY2004. However, the Commission expects this issue to be

¹ Bear Valley Electric Service Company is operated by Southern California Water Company.

² D.03-03-007, Conclusion of Law 9.

“revisited in the event that West Coast Gas’ service territory includes older homes that do not meet Title 20 and Title 24 requirements,” and has required West Coast Gas to provide updated information on whether its housing stock continues to meet those requirements in each annual California Alternatives Rates for Energy (CARE) report.³ Accordingly, West Coast Gas should file a copy of its August 1, 2003 CARE annual report in this proceeding, with clear reference to the section that updates its housing stock information.

Procedural Next Steps for PY2004 Program Planning

Per D.03-03-007, the Commission will address the above-referenced applications through a public workshop process, similar to the approach used for the SMJUs’ PY2003 low-income assistance program plans. Energy Division’s Workshop report, including recommendations on program plans and funding levels, is due no later than September 5, 2003. Comments are due 20 days thereafter.⁴

I note that the workshop process has worked well in the past to provide a forum for addressing SMJU program plans and funding levels without evidentiary hearings. Therefore, I do not anticipate the need for hearings to resolve the issues in this proceeding. However, a final determination on this matter must await the end of the protest period.

In order to avoid disruption in the provision of LIEE services to low-income customers within the SMJUs’ service territories, my goal is to issue a final decision on PY2004 program funding levels by year-end. It is also my goal to issue a final decision on the Standardization Project’s Final Report on LIEE

³ *Id.*, See also Ordering Paragraph 2 (d).

⁴ D.03-03-007, Ordering Paragraph 6.

Measure Cost-Effectiveness by year-end.⁵ I have attached the summary table from this report, which presents the Standardization Project Team's recommendations on individual LIEE measures, i.e., whether to retain or drop a measure from the program. As part of the September 5, 2003 Workshop Report, the assigned Administrative Law Judge has directed Energy Division to indicate which, if any, SMJUs propose to offer LIEE measures in PY2004 that the Standardization Project Team recommends dropping from the program. Any SMJU that proposes to continue measures that the Standardization Project Team recommends dropping should justify its position in comments on the Workshop Report.

As discussed in D.03-03-007, some of the SMJUs (for example, Sierra Pacific Power Company) provide energy efficient microwave ovens as a LIEE measure. The Commission noted that, because this measure is not offered by the large utilities, it was not included in the Standardization Project Team's assessment of LIEE measure cost-effectiveness. Therefore, the Commission required the SMJUs that offer energy efficient microwaves under their LIEE programs to jointly prepare an analysis of savings to program participants and costs to non-participating ratepayers. Per D.03-03-007, this analysis is due by November 1, 2003.⁶ Comments are due 20 days after the date of filing and replies are due 15 days thereafter.⁷

⁵ This report was filed in R.01-08-027 on June 2, 2003. A notice of availability was sent to the service list in R.01-08-027, which continues to serve as the service list in this proceeding. No protests were filed in response.

⁶ November 1, 2003 falls on a Saturday. Pursuant to Rule 3.2 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, this filing deadline is extended to the next business day: November 3, 2003.

⁷ This analysis is only required if energy efficient microwaves are funded using Senate Bill X1 5 or ratepayer funds. See D.03-03-007, Ordering Paragraph 2(e).

The Commission directed that the results of the analysis, and comments, be considered during the development of post-2003 program plans.⁸ Given the timing of the report (November 1, 2003) and the length of the comment period, a final decision on whether to retain or drop this measure is not feasible by year-end. Therefore, the Commission may need to authorize program plans and funding levels for PY2004 on an interim basis with respect to the provision by some SMJUs of energy efficient microwaves.

IT IS RULED that:

1. Application (A.) 03-07-002, A.03-07-003, A.03-07-014, A.03-07-017, A.03-07-019 and A.03-07-025 are consolidated.
2. The service list in Rulemaking (R.) 01-08-027 will serve as the service list in this consolidated proceeding.
3. West Coast Gas Company shall file a copy of its August 1, 2003 California Alternatives Rates for Energy annual report in this proceeding, with clear reference to the section that updates its housing stock information.
4. As part of the September 5, 2003 Workshop Report, Energy Division should indicate which, if any, SMJUs propose to offer Low-Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) measures in program year 2004 that the Standardization Project Team recommends dropping from the program. Any SMJU that proposes to continue measures that the Standardization Project Team recommends dropping shall justify this position in its comments on the Workshop Report.
5. Per Ordering Paragraph 6 of Decision (D.) 03-03-007, Energy Division's Workshop Report shall be filed no later than September 5, 2003, and comments on the report are due 20 days thereafter.

⁸ *Id.*

6. Per Ordering Paragraph 2(e) of D.03-03-007, the SMJUs that plan to offer energy efficient microwaves under their LIEE programs using Senate Bill X1 5 or ratepayer funds post-2003 shall jointly prepare an analysis to determine whether this measure provides meaningful savings for LIEE participants, and at what cost to non-participating customers. The analysis shall be filed and served as a report in R.01-08-027 by November 3, 2003. Comments are due 20 days after the date of filing and replies are due 15 days thereafter.

7. Unless otherwise indicated, all filings, reports, comments, and other submittals in this consolidated proceeding shall be filed with the Commission's Docket Office in this consolidated docket and served electronically to all appearances and the state service list in R.01-08-027. Service by U.S mail is optional, except that one hard copy shall be mailed to the assigned Administrative Law Judge. In addition, if there is no electronic mail address available, the electronic mail is returned to the sender, or the recipient informs the sender of an inability to open the document, the sender shall immediately arrange for alternate service (regular U.S mail shall be the default, unless another means is mutually agreed upon). Parties that prefer a hard copy or electronic file in original format in order to prepare analysis and filings in this proceeding may request service in that form as well. The current service list for R.01-08-027 is available on the Commission's web page, www.cpuc.ca.gov.

Dated July 30, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CARL WOOD

Carl Wood
Assigned Commissioner

ATTACHMENT**LIEE Standardization Project Team Recommendations
On Individual Measures⁹**

Measure	Recommendation
<i>Non-Weather-Sensitive Measures</i>	
Hard-wired CFL porch lights	Retain in all climate zones for single family homes, but drop for multi-family and mobile homes
Compact fluorescent lamps	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
Faucet aerators,	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
Low-flow showerheads,	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
High efficiency refrigerators	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
Water heater blankets	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
Water heater pipe wrap	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
High-efficiency water heaters	Drop from Program
<i>Weather-Sensitive Measures</i>	
Outlet gaskets	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
High efficiency central ACs	Drop in all climate zones and residence types
High efficiency room ACs	Retain in Climate Zones 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15
Caulking	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
Ceiling Insulation	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
Duct testing and sealing	Drop in all climate zones and residence types
Evaporative cooler covers	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
Evaporative cooler maintenance	Drop in all climate zones and residence types
Evaporative coolers	Retain in Climate Zones 11 – 16 for single family and mobile homes; drop from Program for multi-family homes and in Climate Zones other than 11 – 16.
Furnace filters	Retain, but only as part of furnace repair or replacement
Gas furnace repairs	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
Gas furnace replacements	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
Minor home repairs	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
Setback Thermostats	Drop from Program except where required by code in conjunction with furnace repair or replacement
Weatherstripping attic doors	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
Weatherstripping doors	Retain in all climate zones and residence types
Whole house fans	Drop from Program

(END OF ATTACHMENT)

⁹ Source: Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program Measures Cost-Effectiveness Study Final Report, LIEE Standardization Project Team, June 2, 2003. Table 1-3.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail, and by electronic mail to the parties to which an electronic mail address has been provided, this day served a true copy of the original attached Assigned Commissioner's Ruling Consolidating Applications for PY2004 Low-Income Energy Efficiency Programs of the Small and Multi-Jurisdictional Utilities and Addressing Procedural and Scoping Matters on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated July 30, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ KE HUANG

Ke Huang

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to ensure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.